[9th March 1959

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : (a) A suggestion in the matter by the hon. Member is under consideration.

(b) Proposals are awaited from the Director of Medical Services.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Hon. Minister tell us what the Siddha works pending publication before the Government are, and also whether the necessary staff has been appointed for bringing out those publications?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : Notice, Sir.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Hon. Minister kindly enlighten us on what are the arrangements made at present to recover the Siddha vaidhya literature, which is mostly in palmyra manuscript and with private individuals?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : I already said that suggestions were awaited from the Director of Medical Services, and I presume that mostly we will get the information from the palmyra leaves.

Overbridge at Covelong

* 117 Q.—VIDWAN T. MUTHUKANNAPPAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether the construction of the overbridge at Covelong in Chingleput taluk has been completed;

(b) if so, the length and breadth of the bridge and the expenditure incurred for its construction;

(c) whether buses are allowed to pass through that bridge to reach Covelong; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE HON. SRIMATHI LOURDHAMMAL SIMON : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The length of the bridge is 76 feet and the breadth is 12 feet. The length of the bridge including approaches is 1,288 feet and the total expenditure incurred on the construction of the bridge is Rs. 3,26,542.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Diploma holders from Polytechnics

* 118 Q.—SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any disparity in the pay scales of L.C.Es. and L.S.Es. (diploma-holders from Polytechnics) employed by the Government and by the Local Bodies; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE HON. SRIMATHI LOURDHAMMAL SIMON : (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) The finances of almost all local bodies are not sound. This accounts for disparity in the scales of pay of local body employees and Government employees.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Sir, may I know what the exact scales of pay under local bodies are, compared to those under the Government?

THE HON. SRIMATHI LOURDHAMMAL SIMON : A separate question may be put, Sir.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Sir, may I know whether the Government are aware of the fact that on account of the disparity in the scales of pay, the local bodies are not able to have servants in continuous service? The men want to jump on to Government service.

THE HON. SRIMATHI LOURDHAMMAL SIMON : As far as possible, they stick to the employment under the local bodies. I do not think that they are leaving it like that. We allow the local bodies to fix the scales of pay in the best way possible.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Cannot the Government themselves subsidize the local bodies to such an extent as they will be able to give the Government scales of pay?

THE HON. SRIMATHI LOURDHAMMAL SIMON : If that convenience was there, it would have already been done.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Questions are over.

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II—.GOVERNMENT BUSINESS.

(1) THE MADRAS GRAMDAN VILLAGES (REPAYMENT OF DEBTS) BILL, 1959.

* THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Sir, I beg leave to introduce the Madras Gramdan Villages (Repayment of Debts) Bill, 1959.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is—

'That leave be granted for the introduction of the Madras Gramdan Villages (Repayment of Debts) Bill, 1959.'

The motion was put and carried and leave was granted.

* THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Bill is introduced.

(2) GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 1959–60—*cont.* 3–20 p.m.

* DR. MAHOMED USMAN : Mr. Chairman, I am grateful to you, Sir, for calling me to speak just now especially when the Hon. the Minister for Home is here. About three or four years ago,